

# **I. Introduction**

## **General Information**

*Mission:* The Mississippi State Department of Health's mission is to promote and protect the health of the citizens of Mississippi. The Department accomplishes its mission through many programs and projects as well as through cooperation with other government agencies and private sector organizations. As a part of that mission, the *State Health Plan* identifies those areas of greatest need in the state; develops strategies to reduce deficiencies in the state's health care system; and establishes policies to encourage the provision of appropriate care to all people – regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, or ability to pay. The *State Health Plan* provides an overview of a broad spectrum of services, including many services designed to meet the state's five priority health care needs discussed later in this chapter.

*Vision Statement:* The Mississippi State Department of Health strives for excellence in government, cultural competence in carrying out the mission, and to seek local solutions to local problems.

*Value Statement:* The Mississippi State Department of Health identifies its values as applied scientific knowledge, teamwork, and customer service.

## **Legal Authority and Purpose**

Section 41-7-171 et seq., Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, as amended, established the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) as the sole and official agency to administer and supervise all health planning responsibilities for the state, including development and publication of the *Mississippi State Health Plan*. The *State Health Plan* 1) identifies priority health care needs in Mississippi; 2) recommends ways in which those needs may be met; and 3) establishes criteria and standards for health-related activities which require Certificate of Need review. The effective dates of the *Fiscal Year 2004 Mississippi State Health Plan* extend from August 11, 2003, through June 30, 2004, or until superceded by a later *Plan*.

The MSDH considered the health needs of the state, consulted with health provider associations and other health-related agencies of state government, and determined through public meetings and public comments the priority health needs of Mississippi for Fiscal Year 2004. These needs are as follows:

- Disease prevention, health protection, and health promotion
- Health care for specific populations, such as mothers, babies, the elderly, the indigent, the uninsured, and minorities
- Implementation of a statewide trauma system
- Health needs of persons with mental illness, alcohol/drug abuse problems, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, and/or handicap
- Availability of adequate health manpower throughout the state

- Enhanced capacity for detection of and response to public health emergencies, including acts of bioterrorism.

Section 41-7-191, Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, as amended, requires Certificate of Need (CON) approval for the establishment, relocation, or expansion of health care facilities. The statute also requires CON approval for the acquisition or control of major medical equipment and for the change of ownership of defined health care facilities unless the facilities meet specific requirements.

This *Plan* provides the service-specific CON criteria and standards developed and adopted by the MSDH for CON review of health-related activities requiring such review. The *Mississippi Certificate of Need Review Manual* provides additional general CON criteria by which the Department reviews all applications.

## **General Certificate of Need Policies**

Mississippi's health planning and health regulatory activities have the following purposes:

- To prevent unnecessary duplication of health resources
- To provide cost containment
- To improve the health of Mississippi residents
- To increase the accessibility, acceptability, continuity, and quality of health services.

While all of the stated purposes of health planning and health regulatory activities are important, cost containment and the prevention of unnecessary duplication of health resources are the primary purposes and shall be given primary emphasis in the Certificate of Need process.

The MSDH intends to approve an application for CON if it substantially complies with the projected need and with the applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*, and to disapprove all CON applications which do not substantially comply with the projected need or with applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*.

The MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications which fail to confirm that the applicant shall provide a reasonable amount of indigent care, or if the applicant's admission policies deny or discourage access to care by indigent patients. Furthermore, the MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications if such approval would have a significant adverse effect on the ability of an existing facility or service to provide indigent care. Finally, it is the intent of the Mississippi Department of Health to strictly adhere to the criteria set forth in the *State Health Plan* and to ensure that any provider desiring to offer healthcare services covered by the Certificate of Need statutes undergoes review and is issued a Certificate of Need prior to offering such services.

The State Health Officer shall determine whether the amount of indigent care provided or proposed to be offered is "reasonable." The Department considers a reasonable amount of indigent care as that which is comparable to the amount of such care offered by other providers of the requested service within the same, or proximate, geographic area.

The MSDH may use a variety of statistical methodologies including, but not limited to, market share analysis or patient origin data to determine substantial compliance with projected need and with applicable criteria and standards in this *Plan*.

### **Population for Planning**

Population projections used in this *Plan* were calculated by the Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as published in *MISSISSIPPI, Population Projections for 2005, 2010, and 2015*, March 2002. Map I-1 depicts the state's 2005 estimated population by county.

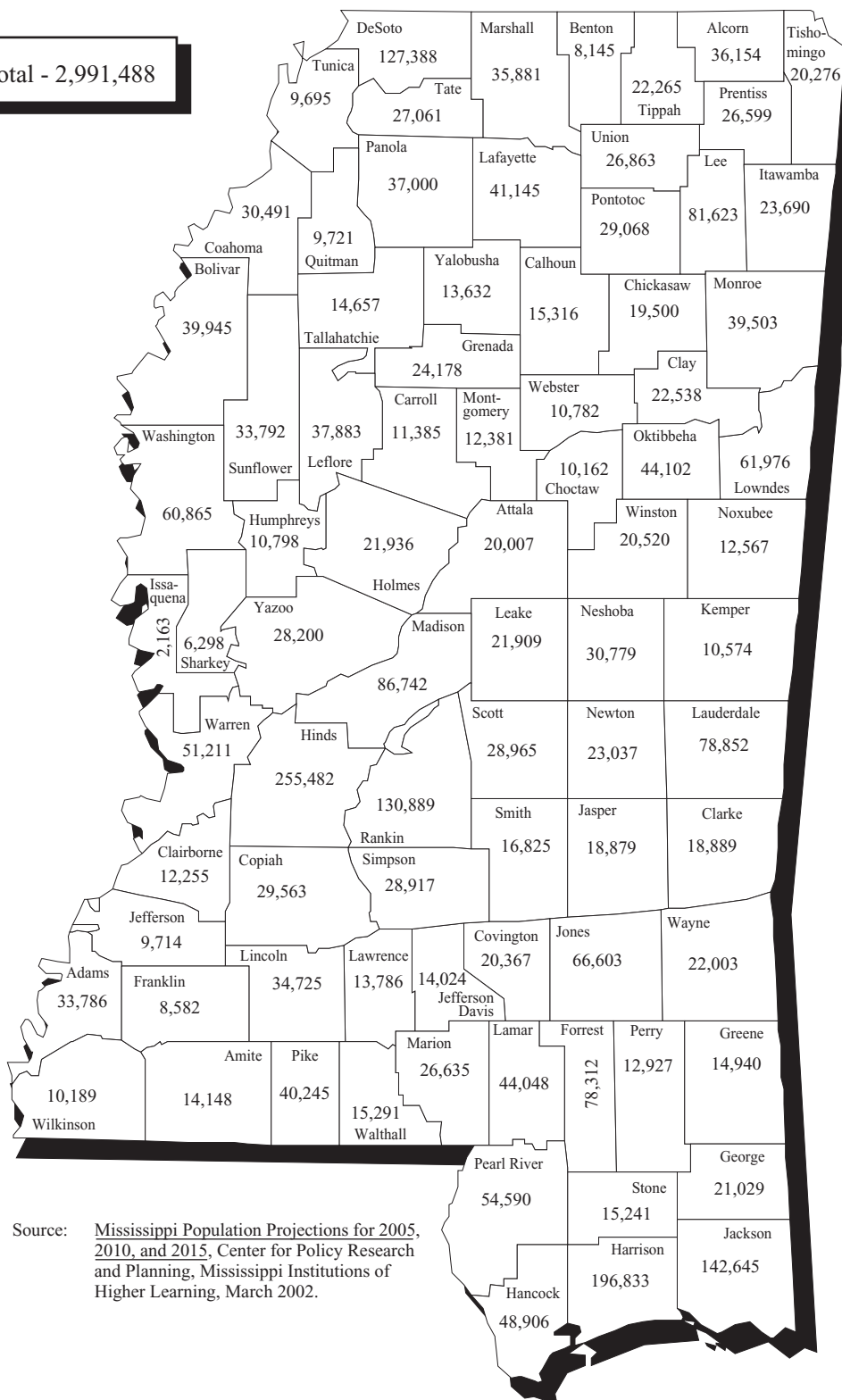
### **Outline of the State Health Plan**

Section A of the *State Health Plan* outlines Mississippi's demographic characteristics, presents some of the state's health status indicators based on vital statistics, summarizes the major health care resources, identifies the priority health needs of the state, and establishes policies and strategies to help meet the identified needs. The *Plan* also examines the shortage of health care professionals in the state.

Section B describes existing services, evaluates the need for additional services in various aspects of health care, and provides Certificate of Need criteria and standards for each service requiring CON review. These services include: long-term care, including care for the aged and the mentally retarded; mental health care, including psychiatric, chemical dependency, and long-term residential treatment facilities; perinatal care; acute care, including various types of diagnostic and therapeutic services; ambulatory care, including outpatient services and freestanding ambulatory surgical centers; comprehensive medical rehabilitation; home health services; and end stage renal disease facilities.

Map I-1  
**Population Projections**  
2005

State Total - 2,991,488



Source: Mississippi Population Projections for 2005, 2010, and 2015, Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, March 2002.